

A Memorandum to the Church Regarding the use of Reserved Sacrament at Public Worship

In rural and urban settings where no priest is regularly available, deacons, and deacons only, shall have my authorization to share Reserved Sacrament with communicants during regularly scheduled public worship (frequency of use to be negotiated with the Bishop). I require deacons to make an annual report of ceremonies in which Reserved Sacrament has been shared. Whenever possible, Reserved Sacrament shall be prepared by a priest at a regular public worship of the parish/mission. Deacons will be required to follow the attached format, which includes a declaration stating the date of the consecration of the elements, and the name of the consecrating priest. In all ceremonies where Reserved Sacrament is shared by a deacon, a sermon/homily shall be preached, and the hand of hospitality shall be extended to all present.

In parishes/missions where an incumbent priest is the normative for parish worship and ministry, the incumbent shall have my authorization to instruct a deacon, licensed to that Parish/Mission, to share Reserved Sacrament as appropriate for the parish/mission. In all ceremonies where Reserved Sacrament is shared by a deacon, a sermon/homily shall be preached, and the hand of hospitality shall be extended to all present. Deacons will be required to follow the attached format, which includes a declaration stating the date of the consecration of the elements, and the name of the consecrating priest.

Following similar format to that of a deacon in a parish/mission with no incumbent, deacons may be asked by the Bishop, or Bishop's designate to offer Reserved Sacrament in parishes/missions without an incumbent priest or a Deacon.

It is a Diocese of Rupert's Land desire to have priestly ministry teaching and guiding in all communities. Present staffing and cost realities prevent us from fulfilling this desire; thus the work of deacon, as expressed historically and biblically is essential for the building of the Body of Christ toward this goal.

Reserved Sacrament is not a replacement for a celebration of Holy Eucharist in the Anglican way; rather, in the case of public worship in extraordinary cases, it is an extension of the Lord's table, of the same worshipping community's action and love toward God in a present reality. We recall Jesus' call for us to meet and share as one body, yearning for God who is in our midst.